

LARGE-SCALE TARGETED DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A method, system, computer system and computer program product to distribute data
to arbitrarily large subsets of a very large client base, with each client computer system
running client software referred to as an agent. The data distribution system uses minimal
server resources and a large-scale network such as the Internet. The data to be distributed
15 may include, for example, agent software configuration data; agent software programs, plug-
ins, and associated data; announcements; and other data that is centrally managed by an
administrator. Using this invention, millions of client computer systems, such as computer
systems for subscribers to a broadband service, can be configured and managed centrally,
while allowing data to be distributed to all or a subset of subscribers efficiently and using
20 minimal bandwidth. Agents assist in determining whether particular data are to be distributed
to them, enabling much larger-scale applications to be supported with limited server-side
resources.